(b) whether the necessary levels, etc., were taken about the year 1915 and an order was passed then that the work would be taken up in times of famine conditions;

(c) whether it is a fact that three tanks can be filled with water from the anicut and a large area can be irrigated out of the lands which are partly irrigated and partly unirrigated at present;

(d) whether the villagers have agreed to pay some contributions towards the construction of the dam and the channels; and

(e) whether the Government are prepared to take up the work at once and if not in what stage the matter is at present and what view the Government have in the matter?

A.—The Government have no information, but have called for a report.

Landlord and Tenant.

Select Committee on the Malabar Tenancy Bill.

*173 Q.—Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO: With reference to the Select Committee meeting held at Ootacamund in May 1925 to discuss the Malabar Tenancy Bill, will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state the total amount of travelling allowances and other allowances drawn by the Members of the said Committee?

A.—A sum of Rs. 4,941-10-0 has been drawn till now as travelling allowance and daily allowance by the members of the Select Committee. The outstanding claims, if preferred, will bring the total amount to about Rs. 6,217-3-0.

Fixity of tenure to the tenants under ryotwari landlords.

*174 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to refer to the answer given to question No. 648 on 24th March 1925 (Volume XXIII, page 621) and to place before the House a summary of correspondence on the subject of giving fixity of tenure to tenants under ryotwari landlords and state in what year the final orders were passed and for what reasons?

A.—The Government decided in 1914 after a detailed inquiry that legislative interference on behalf of tenants in ryotwari tracts was unnecessary. The correspondence is confidential and cannot be placed on the table of the House.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"May I know why the correspondence is treated as confidential?"

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"These inquiries were set on foot in pursuance of a requisition from the Government of India. If the majority or a large number of members of this hon. House require that all the correspondence should be placed on the table of the House, we shall have to get the leave of the Government of India."

Legislative.

Representation of the backward areas in the Legislative Council.

*175 Q.—Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state who represents in the Legislative Council the backward areas?

A.—Sahib Mehrban-i-dostan Sri Ramachandra Mardaraja Deo, Zamindar of Kallikota, represents the backward tracts in the Legislative Council.

Rao Bahadur C. V S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" May I know the reasons which induced the Government to nominate him and his qualifications to represent the backward tracts ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" On the ground apparently that he possesses properties in the backward tracts and presumably knows the conditions of those properties and the tract round about those properties."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" Are the Government not aware of the fact that he does not own properties in the backward tracts ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I was not aware."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" Has the Government taken care to inquire before his nomination whether he owns properties in the Agency tracts ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I take it that the hon. the Leader of the Opposition speaking from his place has given this information. We shall seek to verify this information ; but nothing can be done just now ; we shall keep this in mind for guidance. It is obvious we cannot henceforth act on a prima facie impression."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" The hon. Member told us that he was under the impression that the hon. Member had properties in the backward tracts. How did he get the impression ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Probably very wrongly, Sir, but I got it."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" It may be a fact that a portion of his zamindari is known as agency, but it is a fact it is not part of the scheduled districts."

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I have been reminded of that more than once and I shall keep that in mind."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—" May I ask the Leader of the House whether persons in those tracts should have property to be represented in this House ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Not necessarily, Sir."

Police.

Alleged finding of a dead body of a Badaga boy in a tank in Wellington Barracks.

*176 *Q.*—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the dead body of a poor Badaga boy named Hiria, son of Bellie of Jagamala village, employed in the general section of the Cordite Factory at Aruvankadu was found in a tank in Wellington Barracks recently ;